MARVEL

57

THE NEW AVENGERS

BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
McCAIG

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The Avengers are on the run! Until they can be sure who's on their side, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively, they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive, even though they're living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling and director of H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers.

The Hood has been running a syndicate of powerful criminals but has disappeared since losing his powers. Loki, the goddess of mischief, has offered the Hood a way to reclaim his power: the Asgardian Norn Stones.

But certain members of the Hood's syndicate have decided to strike out on their own with top secret technology that can siphon away super-powers. Not only have they defeated the Avengers, but Norman Osborn and his Dark Avengers seem to have succumbed as well…

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I KNOW--I KNOW WE'VE BEEN IN BIGGER POTHOLES THAN THIS.

BUT ƎAGHƐ--BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO *THINK* OF ONE RIGHT NOW.

NO POWERS. GENERIC DISRUPTER.

(IS IT THE SAME ONE WE HAD OR--?)

I'M RUNNING A FEVER. MY SKIN FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BURN OFF MY BONES.

(IS IT PERMANENT?)

I CAN'T LET OSBORN DO THIS. NO. I CAN'T LET THIS BE THE END OF THE ROAD.

THEY ASKED ME TO LEAD THEM AND I LED THEM INTO THIS.

GET UP, *BARTON!*

GET UP! AGH! GOD!

(WHAT WOULD STEVE ROGERS DO?)

COME ON, GOD. I DON'T ASK FOR MUCH. RIGHT?

OKAY, SO, I REALLY NEED YOU TO NOT LET ME DIE IN FRONT OF NORMAN OSBORN.

I KNOW I'M GOING TO BUY THE FARM ONE DAY...WE'RE ALL GOING TO...

BUT PLEASE NOT WITH NORMAN OSBORN STANDING OVER ME.

PLEASE.

DO NOT LET THE LAST THING I SEE BE THAT HAIR.

JUST GIVE ME BACK MY POWERS, STOP THE WORLD FROM SPINNING, LET ME GET UP, AND SAVE THE DAY AND I PROMISE I WON'T--

WHOOOOH, OKAY, THAT'S MORE SPINNING.

KEEP PASSING OUT.

I KEEP--

I'M HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE STAYING AW--OH @#$% EVERY TIME I WAKE UP THERE'S SOMETHING WORSE GOING ON.

EVERY TIME I OPEN MY EYES THERE'S ANOTHER LEVEL OF HELL.

IS CAROL ALIVE? CAROL? COME ON, CAROL. BE ALIVE.

SHE'S BREATHING. BUT BARELY.

IS THIS IT? ARE WE DOWN FOR GOOD? ARE OUR POWERS GONE FOREVER?

AND AM I HAPPY OR SAD ABOUT THAT? NOT HAPPY.

GUESS I LIKE BEING SPIDER-WOMAN AFTER ALL.

LOUSY WAY TO....

FIND...

HEART!

MY NNN! HEART.

MY KID.

I WANT TO SEE HER GROW UP.

I WANT TO SEE ALL OF IT. I WANT TO...

NNN!

JESSICA!

POWERS DRAINER.

WHERE'D THESE IDIOTS GET AHOLD OF A PIECE OF TECH THAT--

THEY GOT IT FROM US.

OURS BROKE AND WE LEFT IT AT A FIGHT. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

THIS IS ALL MY ƎAGHƐ FAULT.

YOU DON'T LEAVE TECH HANGING AROUND. THEY POKED IT WITH A STICK AND FIGURED OUT HOW TO WORK IT.

GOD!! MY ARM!!

WE $#$% GAVE THEM THE POWER THEY NEEDED TO TAKE US DOWN!

US, OSBORN, HIS AVENGERS... EVERYONE.

THIS IS OUR FAULT. SLOPPY.

OKAY, OSBORN, LET'S HEAR IT! RRRR!

LET'S HEAR YOU TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE.

YA FEELIN' IT, OSBORN? YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM?

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PEOPLE WANT, MISTER GARTHWAITE?

OH, YOU KNOW MY NAME...

WELL, I BELIEVE THE GOOD DOCTOR HARROW ALREADY TOLD YOU.

BUT JUST SO'S WE'RE CLEAR...

IT'S A TRADE-OFF.

WE GIVE YOU THE POWER DRAINER. YOU GIVE US THE SAME DEAL WE HAD WHEN WE WAS WORKING FOR THE HOOD.

BUT, FOR US, AT LEAST NOW WE *KNOW WHO* WE'RE WORKING FOR IN RETURN FOR OUR *"GET OUT OF JAIL FREE"* CARD.

AND IF YOU ACT NOW, WE'LL THROW IN THE ENTIRE TEAM OF OUTLAW AVENGERS.

FREE.

NO EXTRA CHARGE.

BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU, OZ-MAN.

NOT EVERYONE HERE ON MY SIDE OF THE FENCE IS ON THE EXACT SAME PAGE.

THEY NEED REASSURANCE.

SOME SAY: KILL OSBORN NOW, IN FRONT OF THE WORLD.

GET THE REP POINTS AND COAST ON IT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

ELAND

SO I'D MAKE YOUR DECISION RATHER QUICKLY.

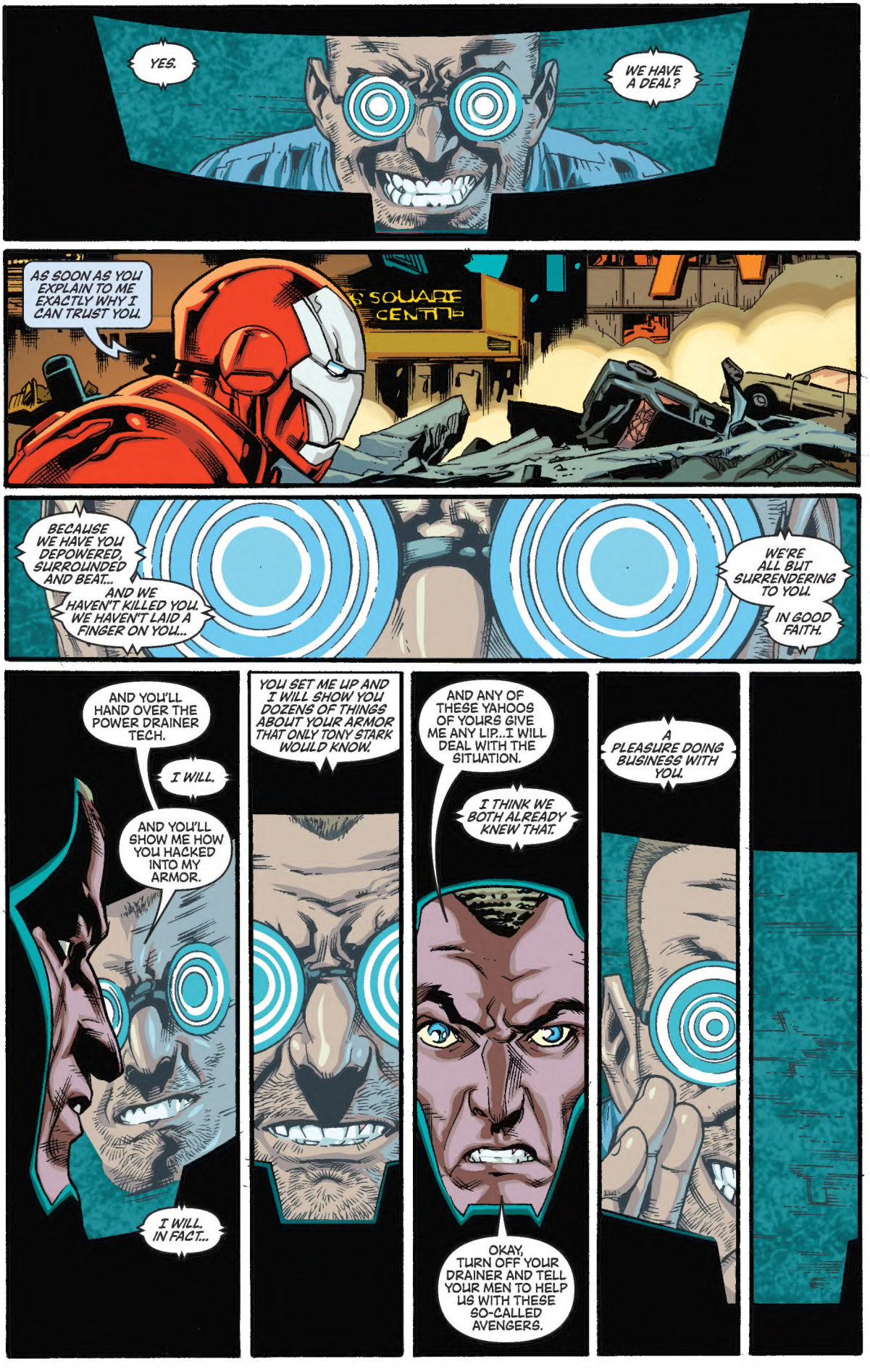
AND BY QUICKLY I DO MEAN FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.

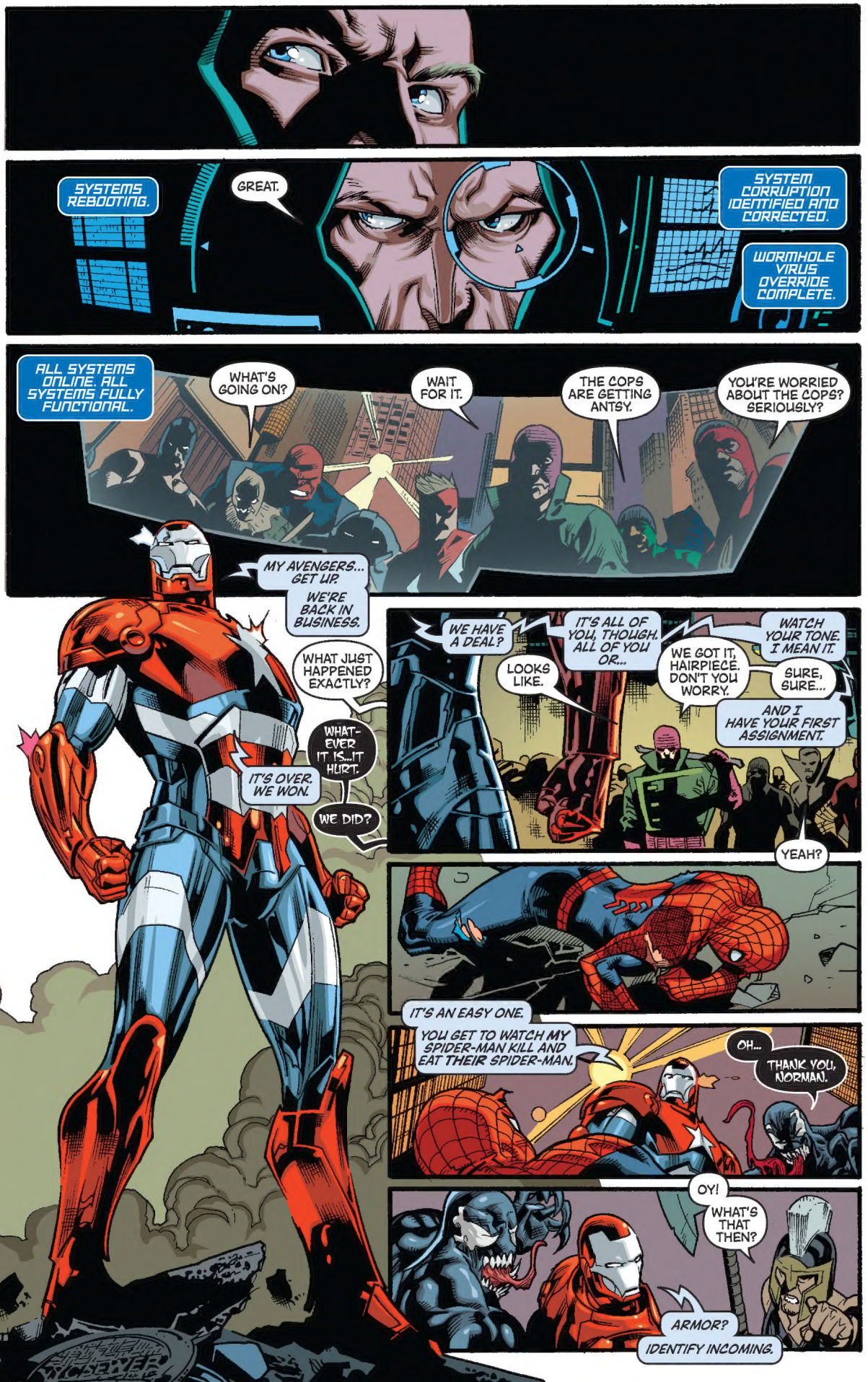
GIVE ME BACK MY ARMOR AND WE'LL TALK.

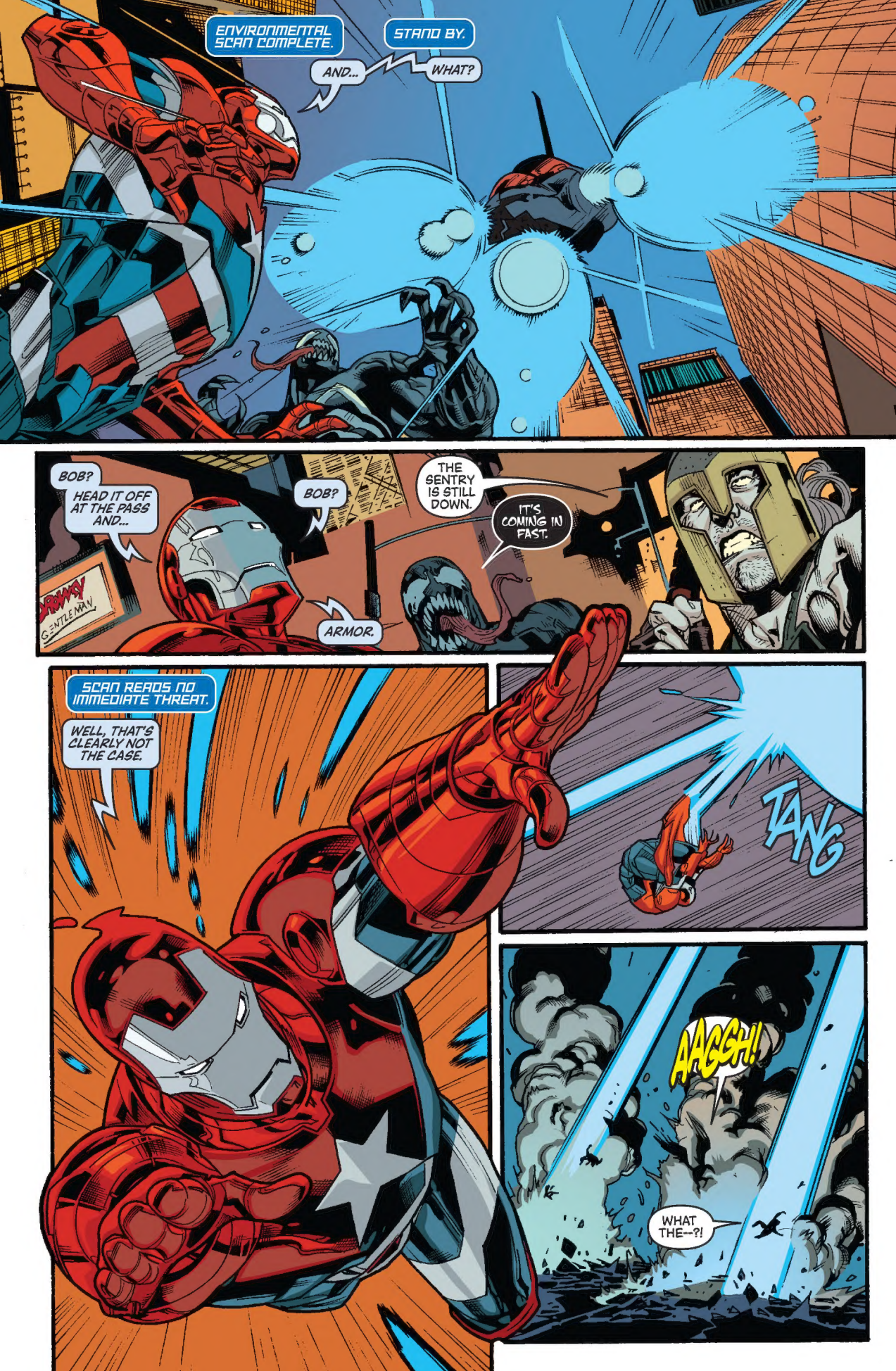
AND I'M NOT ASKING.

AYE.

YEAH, SURE.
DOCTOR HARROW...
I ASSUME I AM SPEAKING TO YOU.


YES.
WE HAVE A DEAL?
AS SOON AS YOU EXPLAIN TO ME EXACTLY WHY I CAN TRUST YOU.
BECAUSE WE HAVE YOU DEPOWERED, SURROUNDED AND BEAT...
AND WE HAVEN'T KILLED YOU. WE HAVEN'T LAID A FINGER ON YOU...
WE'RE ALL BUT SURRENDERING TO YOU.
IN GOOD FAITH.
AND YOU'LL HAND OVER THE POWER DRAINER TECH.
I WILL.
AND YOU'LL SHOW ME HOW YOU HACKED INTO MY ARMOR.
I WILL. IN FACT...
YOU SET ME UP AND I WILL SHOW YOU DOZENS OF THINGS ABOUT YOUR ARMOR THAT ONLY TONY STARK WOULD KNOW.
AND ANY OF THESE YAHOOS OF YOURS GIVE ME ANY LIP...I WILL DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.
I THINK WE BOTH ALREADY KNEW THAT.
OKAY, TURN OFF YOUR DRAINER AND TELL YOUR MEN TO HELP US WITH THESE SO-CALLED AVENGERS.
A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.


SYSTEMS REBOOTING.
GREAT.
SYSTEM CORRUPTION IDENTIFIED AND CORRECTED.
WORMHOLE VIRUS OVERRIDE COMPLETE.
ALL SYSTEMS ONLINE. ALL SYSTEMS FULLY FUNCTIONAL.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WAIT FOR IT.
THE COPS ARE GETTING ANTSY.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE COPS? SERIOUSLY?
MY AVENGERS... GET UP.
WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS.
WHAT JUST HAPPENED EXACTLY?
WHAT-EVER IT IS...IT HURT.
IT'S OVER. WE WON.
WE DID?
WE HAVE A DEAL?
LOOKS LIKE.
IT'S ALL OF YOU, THOUGH. ALL OF YOU OR...
WE GOT IT, HAIRPIECE. DON'T YOU WORRY.
WATCH YOUR TONE. I MEAN IT.
SURE, SURE...
AND I HAVE YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT.
YEAH?
IT'S AN EASY ONE.
YOU GET TO WATCH MY SPIDER-MAN KILL AND EAT THEIR SPIDER-MAN.
OH... THANK YOU, NORMAN.
OY!
WHAT'S THAT THEN?
ARMOR?
IDENTIFY INCOMING.


ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN COMPLETE.
STAND BY.
AND...
WHAT?
BOB?
HEAD IT OFF AT THE PASS AND...
BOB?
ARMOR.
THE SENTRY IS STILL DOWN.
IT'S COMING IN FAST.
SCAN READS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT.
WELL, THAT'S CLEARLY NOT THE CASE.
TANG
AAGGH!
WHAT THE--?!

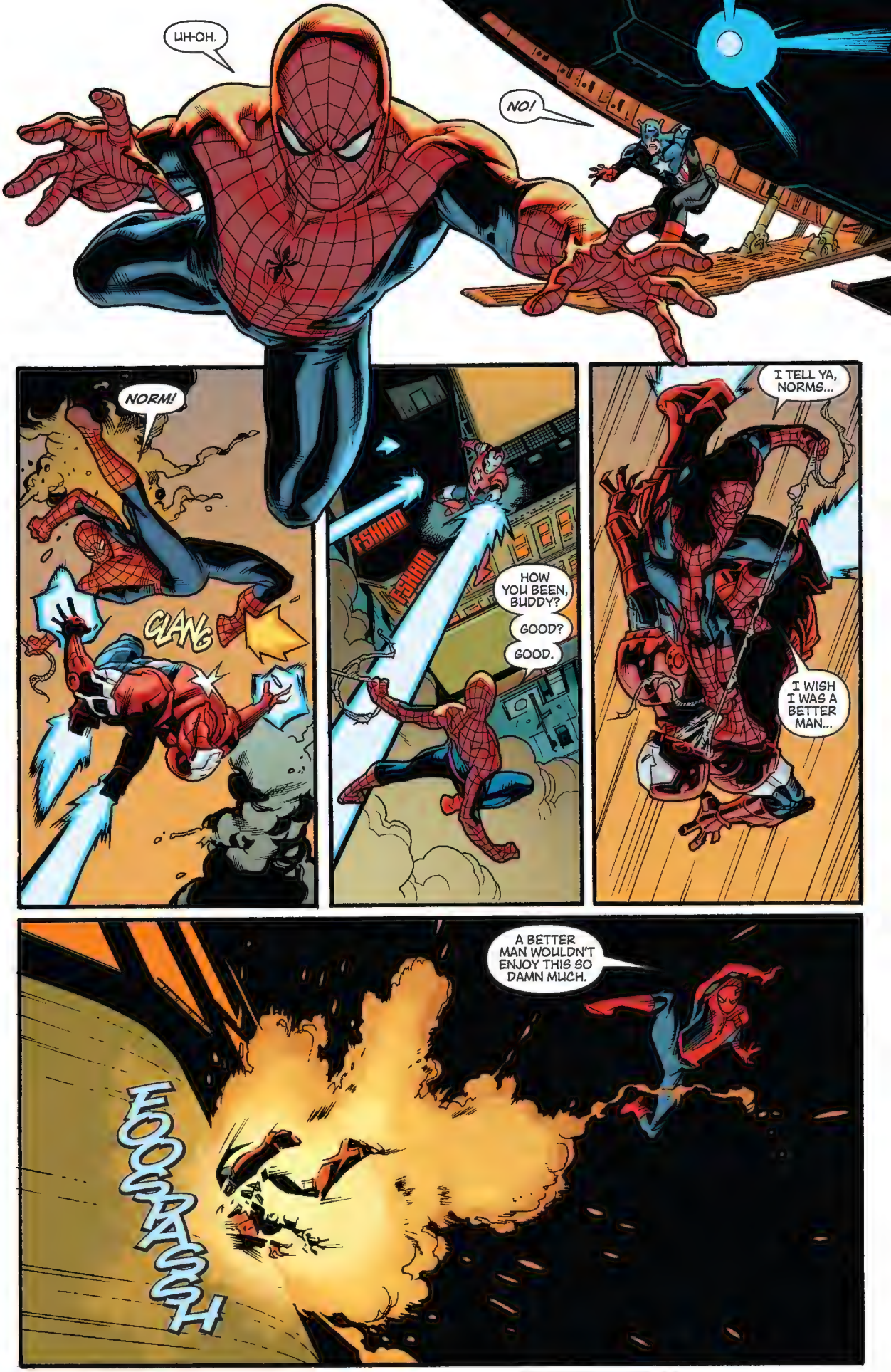
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

AS IN GET YOUR ASSES UP AND LET'S GO!

MR CASHEW

THE APE KING

AAGGHH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH CAGE?!
HE'S HURTING. JUST LIE HIM DOWN.
SOMEONE GET CAROL! SHE'S STILL OUT!
I LOVE YOU.
YOU DAMN WELL BETTER.
OH GOD...
YOO HOO!
MS. MARVEL?
UGGHH...
WAKEY WAKEY!
GO GO GO!
I'M GO GO GOING!
THAT'S EVERYONE!
GET THIS BIRD IN THE AIR!
NO.


UH-OH.
NO!
NORM!
CLANG
FSHAM
FSHAM
HOW YOU BEEN, BUDDY?
GOOD?
GOOD.
I TELL YA, NORMS...
I WISH I WAS A BETTER MAN...
A BETTER MAN WOULDN'T ENJOY THIS SO DAMN MUCH.
FOOSH
ASH

THAT WAS...VERY THERAPEUTIC.

FOUR O'CLOCK!

TANG

GONE.

CLOAKED. IT HAS A CLOAKING DEVICE. JUST LIKE OURS.

SO THEY'RE GONE?

UH-UH. NOPE. I GOT 'EM.

I GOT THE SCENT.

I CAN TRACK 'EM.

BAYAMO, CUBA.
THE STONES OF WHAT, LOKI?
THE STONES OF NORN.
HOW DO THEY WORK?
I BELIEVE AT THIS POINT THAT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU WANTED POWER. THEY ARE POWER.
HOW THAT POWER MANIFESTS ITSELF IS UP TO YOU.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'M NOT SPEAKING IN RIDDLES, PARKER.
HOW THE POWER OF THE STONES MANIFESTS ITSELF IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.
YOU'VE USED THESE.
I HAVE. IN BATTLE WITH MY BROTHER THOR.
BUT THAT WAS ANOTHER TIME.
THEY ARE NOT MINE TO USE ANYMORE.
THEY ARE YOURS.
PARKER... I WOULDN'T DO THIS.
I HAVE TO, WHITNEY.
IS IT ABOUT MONEY?
I HAVE MONEY.
IT'S NOT ABOUT MONEY.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

BROOKLYN.
FIRE
CAN I HELP--?
ARE YOU THE NIGHT NURSE?
DO ANY OF YOU HAVE MEDICAL TRAINING?
NO.
NO.
THEN GET THE @#$% OUT OF THE ROOM.
LUKE?!
MISTER CAGE?!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LUKE?!
TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!

WHERE ARE WE? WHO IS THIS?
LIKE US?
NEVER HEARD OF HER.
SHE'S THE NIGHT NURSE. SHE HELPS OUT GUYS LIKE US WHEN WE NEED HELP.
SHE'S A FRIEND.
YOU NEVER NEEDED HER.
SHE USED TO DATE DOCTOR STRANGE.
DOCTOR STRANGE AND THE NIGHT NURSE.
I'D WATCH THAT TV SHOW.
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT CAGE--
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN SO-- WHERE'S MY GUN?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE.
WHY? I THOUGHT YOU KNEW--
I CAN'T HELP THIS MAN.
HE'S HAVING A MAJOR CARDIAC EPISODE. HE MIGHT BE--IT MIGHT BE FATAL.
TELL-- JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED. I'LL GO GET IT.
I NEED--I NEED HIS SKIN NOT TO BE UNBREAKABLE.
I NEED--EVEN IF--IF I COULD OPEN HIM UP-- I'M NOT A SURGEON.
I'M NOT A HEART SPECIALIST. HE NEEDS A SPECIALIST.
OKAY, OKAY. TELL ME WHERE TO TAKE HIM TO AND--
BUT YOU CAN'T CUT HIM OPEN!
YOU SEE-- YOU SAID YOU WERE VICTIMIZED BY SOME KIND OF GENETIC DISRUPTER. SOMETHING TOOK YOUR POWERS.
YES.
THEN YOU NEED TO GO TO THE PERSON WHO HAD IT AND TURN IT BACK ON AGAIN.
THEN MAYBE, MAYBE YOU'D GET HIM THE HELP HE NEEDS.
OH MY GOD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN DO!

AVENGERS!

JUST GO IN THERE, OSBORN.

STAND DOWN, KARLA.

AVENGERS, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

THEY'RE GOING TO RUN FOR IT.

WELL, THAT WAS FAST.

I AM NOT GOING TO JAIL.

NO ONE'S GOING TO JAIL.

YOU KNOW WHY I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL? BECAUSE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL.

NO ONE'S GOING TO JAIL.

GUYS... WITHOUT OSBORN... CAGE IS GOING TO *DIE*.

WHAT?

NIGHT NURSE CAN'T HELP HIM. HIS SKIN IS UNBREAKABLE--

BUT WITH THE POWER DRAINER...

EXACTLY.

WELL, @#$%!

THEN WE GIVE UP.

NO.

WE *HAVE* TO.

HE'LL DESTROY YOU, MAN.

HE'LL RUIN YOU AND EVERYONE YOU LOVE.

WELL, YEAH...

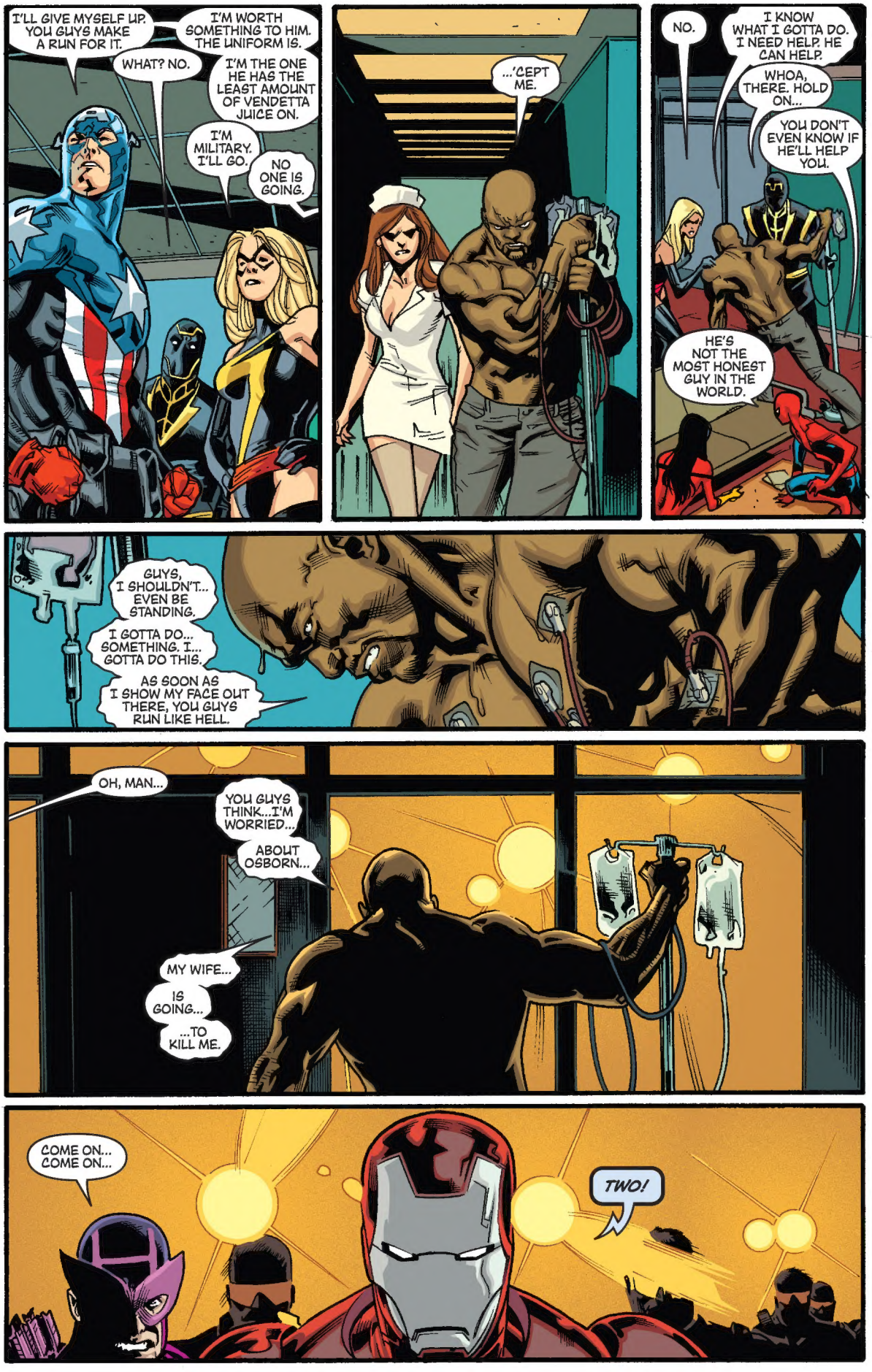
LUKE...

TARGETS LOCKED AND IDENTIFIED.

AVENGERS!

YOU ARE SURROUNDED!

THE COUNT STARTS NOW!


I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP. YOU GUYS MAKE A RUN FOR IT.
I'M WORTH SOMETHING TO HIM. THE UNIFORM IS.
WHAT? NO.
I'M THE ONE HE HAS THE LEAST AMOUNT OF VENDETTA JUICE ON.
I'M MILITARY. I'LL GO.
NO ONE IS GOING.
...'CEPT ME.
NO.
I KNOW WHAT I GOTTA DO. I NEED HELP. HE CAN HELP.
WHOA, THERE. HOLD ON...
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'LL HELP YOU.
HE'S NOT THE MOST HONEST GUY IN THE WORLD.
GUYS, I SHOULDN'T... EVEN BE STANDING.
I GOTTA DO... SOMETHING. I... GOTTA DO THIS.
AS SOON AS I SHOW MY FACE OUT THERE, YOU GUYS RUN LIKE HELL.
OH, MAN...
YOU GUYS THINK...I'M WORRIED...
ABOUT OSBORN...
MY WIFE...
IS GOING...
...TO KILL ME.
COME ON... COME ON...
TWO!

...'SUP?
LUKE CAGE, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR--
FLUMP
TO BE CONTINUED...